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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Four SG Supreme Court justices resign

By Rachel Lew
@rachelannlew

Four out of the five UT Supreme Court justices resigned their positions during a Student Government meeting Tuesday night.

Zachary Stone, Max Mills, Savannah Kumar and Anna Hiran resigned from their positions, leaving Justice Jordan Durrani as the chief justice and sole member of the court. The resignations followed a resolution to impeach now-emeritus Chief Justice Stone. In an email to the SG assembly, Stone wrote

a resignation letter saying he is not resigning to avoid embarrassment, but because of the way the election process unfolded. Prior to his resignation, Stone collected the required number of representative signatures to nullify the impeachment vote.

“This election has been a series of witch hunts,” Stone said in his letter. “Instead of seeking political victory, individuals sought to game the system with judicial intervention. We had to use a terrible Election Code to settle disputes for parties which had ulterior motives.”

Stone said he no longer

wished to participate in the current culture of SG.

“Given the toxicity overwhelming Student Government, it is no surprise that the witch hunt now targets the Court,” Stone said. “To have [our court rulings] vacated without any consultation makes me regret spending a moment doing that service for the University.”

Tanner Long, Speaker of the Assembly and government senior, said he is saddened to see students lose faith in

SG page 2



Monica Silverio | Daily Texan Staff

Court justice Savannah Kumar, alongside three other court justices, resigned at the Student Government meeting Tuesday night.

POLICE

UTPD to hire female officer to investigate sexual assault

By Caleb Wong
@caleber96

UTPD will officially hire a female detective specializing in sexual assault investigations by April, according to Chief David Carter.

Carter said the hire will be a current UTPD officer and will be sent to training along with a sergeant to learn more about sexual assault investigations and working with survivors.

“The vast majority of the sexual assault reports that come into the police involve female victims,” Carter said. “It’s important for a victim to trust the police.”

The detective will also work with survivors to help them navigate the criminal justice system, which can emotionally strain survivors, Carter said.

“There needs to be a foundation in terms of relationships,” Carter said. “We want our victims to feel comfortable in working with the prosecutor’s office and a variety of other folks.”

The creation of the new position ties into the “Blueprint” report released Feb. 29, which seeks to guide police officers at UT System institutions toward implementing “victim-centered” and “trauma-informed” approaches when responding to sexual assault incidents. According to the report, research shows that more training and experience investigating sexual assault reduces the likelihood of belief in false stereotypes or myths about

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MUSIC

Music festival creates space for LGBTQ artists

By James Rodriguez
@jamie_rod

When it comes to the hip-hop industry, Houston rapper JAPAN is accustomed to being the elephant in the room.

As a queer hip-hop artist, JAPAN, aka Pierre Hill, is part of a burgeoning scene that is largely absent from major record labels and vastly underrepresented in mainstream hip-hop. Fueled by the desire to create a space for LGBT hip-hop artists to exchange ideas, share their music and network, Hill began organizing Pink Elephant Festival, which will run March 9-10 at the Historic Victory Grill in East Austin.

“I called it that for a reason,” Hill said. “As LGBTQ artists, we’re big, we’re loud, we’re brash, we’re beautiful, we’re tough. You can’t ignore us anymore. Anytime there’s a demographic of people that don’t get included, they’re gonna start making their own shit.”

Hill said the timing of the festival — just days before industry executives, musicians and fans descend upon Austin for the annual South



Marshall Tidrick | Daily Texan Staff

DJ Ang Garcia, left, Priscilla Hale, director of Allgo, a statewide queer people of color organization, and UT student Ayana Flewellen have all been involved in the organization of Pink Elephant Festival, a hip-hop festival for LGBT artists that will occur March 9-10.

By Southwest Music Festival — is intended to reflect his aspirations of raising the profile of LGBT hip-hop. Pink Elephant’s lineup includes 25 musicians from

around the U.S. and the U.K., as well as a host of producers and activists who will discuss topics from feminism in LGBT hip-hop to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Hill said the festival will showcase the talent often overlooked by the hip-hop industry.

“It’s a boys’ club — a straight boys’ club at that,”

Hill said. “I definitely believe that homophobia is real in hip-hop. I don’t really do the victim thing very well, so it’s

ELEPHANT page 8

POLICE

Austin Police Department Mobile offers new crime reporting features

By Mikaela Cannizzo
@mikaelacl16

A new app for the Austin Police Department now allows community members to interact with police and provide anonymous tips in non-emergency situations like theft, drug use and suspicious activity.

APD released their app, Austin Police Department Mobile, on Feb. 29. Lt. Douglas Rice in the Police Technology Unit said the app includes features such as two-way communication with officers, news updates and crime maps. The app is free and can be downloaded on the iOS App Store and Google Play Marketplace.

“[The app] just provides a lot more of our resources at

their fingertips,” Rice said. “In today’s day and age, with everyone having a smart device, we’re just trying to make it easier for the community to stay in contact with us and provide the help that we need and also

for us to be in contact with the community.”

Compared to APD’s previous app, which only allowed tip submissions, Rice said

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Screenshots from Austin Police Department Mobile

SXSW

New app update gives real-time suggestions to SXSW attendees

By Vera Bepalova
@thedailytexan

With 6,000 events spread out across hundreds of venues, South By Southwest can feel overwhelming to an attendee, especially one unfamiliar with the city of Austin.

Last year, the coordinators of SXSW made it possible for attendees to connect to one another by adding features like Around Me to the official SXSW app, SXSW GO. This year, they aim to make it easier for festival goers to find events all across the city with a new feature, SXSW Recommends.

Scott Wilcox, SXSW director of technology, said the newest addition to the app is designed to deliver personalized event recommendations based on a registrant’s favored

events, time, location and the popularity of the event. These factors are weighted through an advanced algorithm created by SXSW and Eventbase, which is then able to recommend upcoming events to the user.

“We wanted to give our attendees a tool that helps them discover things that we think they would like,” Wilcox said. “Those preferences are drawn directly, largely from the attendees signaling to us what events they’ve favored and attended today.”

SXSW Recommends utilizes GPS and iBeacons, technologies which communicate location using Bluetooth, in order to determine an attendee’s proximity to upcoming events. The feature recommends not

only concerts, but also panels, book signings and other events under the umbrella of SXSW.

“One of the things that we are using technology for is to create that sort of sense of intimacy within the event,” Wilcox said.

The new addition to the app has been received with mixed feelings.

Ethan Cummins, one of the tens of thousands of people who will be attending SXSW this year, said he feels that although the app is convenient, it caters more to SXSW newcomers who are less likely to know about pop-up shows and local acts.

“Personally, when it comes to planning the events I’ll

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

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Peter gets critiqued.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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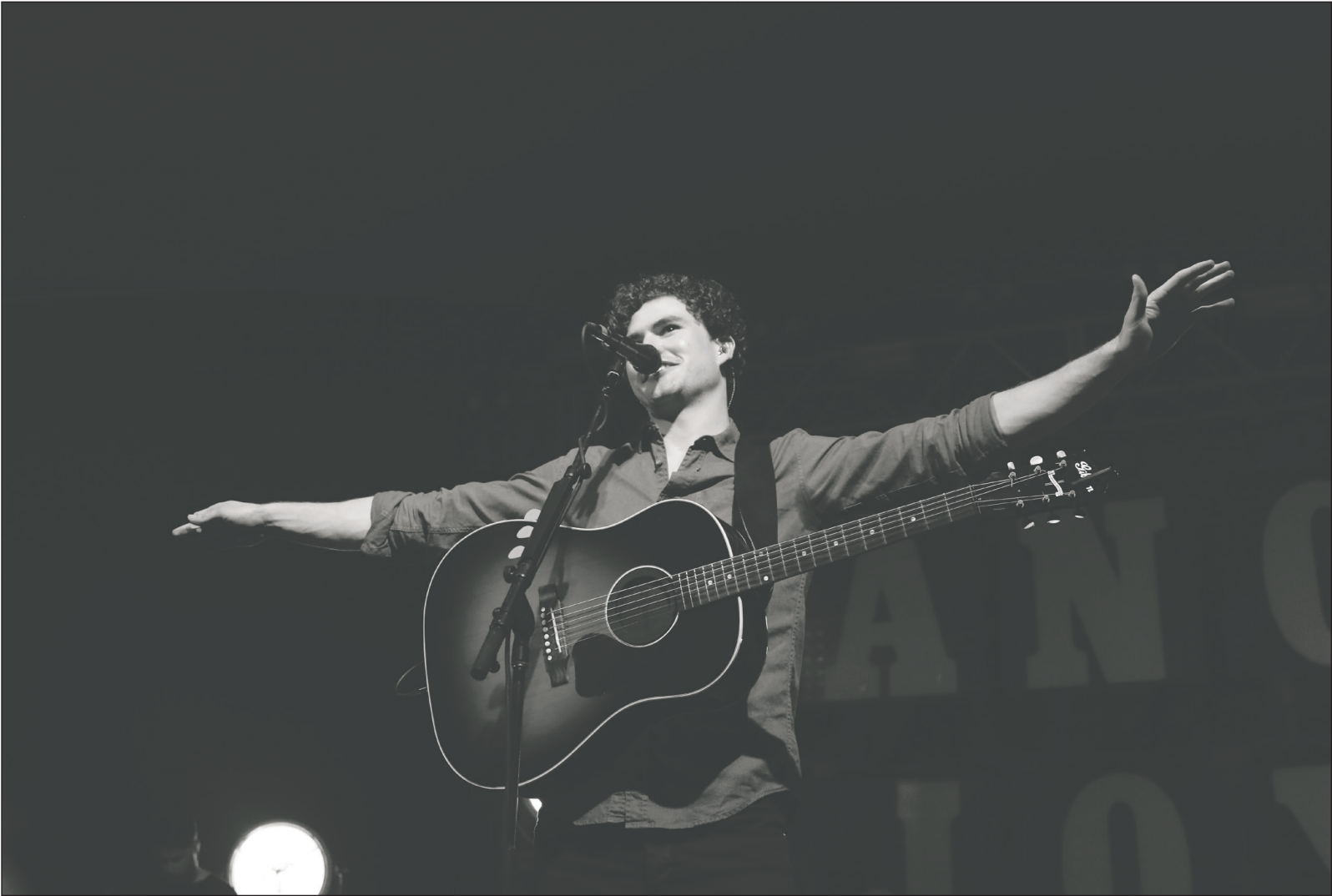
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FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Singer-songwriter Vance Joy performs at Stubb's on Tuesday night as a part of his The Fire and The Flood tour.

SXSW

Dell Med offers cash prize for novel ideas

By Emma Acosta
@CB_Acosta

The Dell Medical School is searching for ideas on how to improve the health care system by encouraging community members to submit their thoughts on the evolving health care system.

The medical school hopes to transform the system by involving the public in the search for new business models, new forms of community engagement and product and technology ideas by hosting a competition, #HealthHive, during South By Southwest. The contest will last from March 11 through March 13, and people can enter by sending in a short explanation of their improvement idea. The overall winner of the competition will receive \$1,000.

“[Crowdsourcing projects]

obviously help illuminate bright ideas, no matter where they come from,” said Clay Johnston, dean of Dell Medical School, in an email. “They also deepen this community dialogue that’s so important to us. Ultimately, we believe the best solutions for health problems will come from the broader community, and it’s our job to enable them to find success.”

Stacey Chang, executive director of the Design Institute for Health, said the U.S. spends more money than any other country on health care, but sees ineffective outcomes. He said the public can see how broken the system is by comparing the health care system to other customer service experiences.

“It’s a terrible experience ... If you just look at it as a customer experience, it’s miserable, and that tells you that the

system is not really working because it’s not absorbing its customers the way it should be,” Chang said.

Johnston said members of the Dell school will participate in conversations about the health care system during South By Southwest.

“The panels will capture a slice of these conversations, and I think they’ll be fabulous and informative,” Johnston said in an email. “There’s so much more going on than can be covered by a few people in an hour-long convention-meeting-room session. I hope the students, staff and faculty who attend the festival get a glimpse of those conversations — but I hope that everyone feels free to take part in them outside of South by Southwest.”

Anish Reddy, a biomedical engineering honors senior and president of Medical Ethics

“The panels will capture a slice of these conversations, and I think they’ll be fabulous and informative.”

—Clay Johnston,
Dean of Dell Medical School

Forum, said there are more ways for students to get involved in the health conversations around campus.

“The panels and exhibitions [at South By Southwest] lead to important discussions on the main issues, which we as students need to have, as we are the next generation of health professionals that will lead the field and make the decisions,” Reddy said.

SG continues from page 1

the SG process.

“I’ve always been an advocate of following the rules, and it was my belief, and the belief of others, that the rules were not followed in this election,” Long said. “It’s unfortunate the justices saw resignation as their only path forward.”

The resignations of the court justices also follow decisions by the Election Supervisory Board (ESB) not to certify executive alliance election results.

Zachary Long, ESB vice chair and human relations sophomore, said the Dean of

Students office and the ESB concluded there was a violation of due process stemming from the presence of Supreme Court justices at the ESB hearings.

“Since members of the appellate court — SG Supreme Court — were present at each of the hearings held by the ESB, we believe that a fair appeals hearing could not be held by the SG Supreme Court,” Long said.

Long said as a result, the ESB and the Dean of Students office decided not to certify results of the executive alliance race.

According to Stone, the ESB invited the Supreme Court to attend ESB hearings.

Alex Kappus, deputy advisor to the Dean of Students, said the Supreme Court rulings are not necessarily nullified, but pending.

“All parties involved are having the opportunity to appeal to a neutral hearing officer so that due process can be ensured,” Kappus said. “If they choose to do so, then the process will take place. The hearing officer may rule and confirm the Supreme Court ruling or may issue a new ruling or possibly confirm how the ESB originally ruled. If no one appeals, then all of the original ESB rulings would stand.”

If the new appellate officer rules similarly to the Supreme Court rulings, then results will be certified. The officer will not have any knowledge of how the Supreme Court previously ruled. Long said the appeals process for the three cases can be expected to conclude by week’s end, but is subject to change.

SXSW RECS

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attend, I’m more likely to rely on other platforms such as Facebook RSVPs or the Do512 app,” Cummins said.

Psychology sophomore Lauren Burgess said she thinks the new feature will make the festival less overwhelming.

“Usually South By shows are heard about through Facebook events, random websites and word of mouth,” Burgess said. “Given that the festival is spread throughout the city and that this device alerts you when you are near an event, it has value for not only natives, but also tourists.”

APD MOBILE

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this app has a variety of features that can help the community and the police department continue to be mutually involved.

In addition to anonymity in tips, Rice said the app allows individuals to submit pictures and their location along with their report. When sending a tip, users can pick from one of 27 categories that describes what they are reporting through the “Submit a Tip” feature on the app.

Other features available on the app include a crime map which shows exact locations of criminal offenses, a directory with important phone numbers for various units in the department, police station locations and links to APD’s social media accounts.

While the app provides a way to directly contact officers, police chief Art Acevedo said it should not be used in emergency situations during a press conference about the app last Monday.

“Even though there is a link to call 911 on the app itself, this app is not designed to text in when an emergency exists and immediate police response is required,” Acevedo said during the press conference.

To implement this app, APD partnered with MobilePD, an Austin-based startup company, Rice said. Acevedo and MobilePD employees decided a specialized app would be beneficial to the Austin community, and app development took about a year.

With the arrival of the app, MobilePD CEO Kushyar Kasraie said the company looks forward to bringing the city of Austin a new platform to promote local safety, which they have already done in other cities by implementing similar apps.

“Over the years, our apps have helped find missing people, lift major drug busts and have greatly enhanced access to police resources, and we look forward to seeing that first hand in our own community,” Kasraie said during the press conference.

Jameson Johnson, vice president of MobilePD, said the company is looking forward to evaluating the progress of the app during South By Southwest next week. According to MobilePD’s website, the company hopes to enhance safety at the festival by encouraging people to download the app and report suspicious activity if necessary.

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STATE

Lawmakers discuss sexual assaults on campuses

By Caleb Wong
@caleber96

Lawmakers vigorously questioned researchers, activists and higher education officials about sexual assault in a hearing before the Higher Education Committee on Tuesday.

Representatives from Baylor University and advocacy group End Rape on Campus as well as UT researcher Noël Busch-Armendariz testified before lawmakers about the role of alcohol in sexual assault, ways to support survivors and how to prevent assaults before they happen.

Annie Clark, executive director of End Rape on Campus and a survivor of sexual assault, told lawmakers that schools need to make sure students are aware of institutional policies relating to sexual assault, such as alcohol amnesty, which can encourage students to report instances of sexual assault, even when underage drinking was involved.

“Most places do have these amnesty policies, but most students don’t know they exist,” Clark said. “It’s really making sure that not only is your policy good, but that students know about it and that it’s communicated clearly.”

Busch-Armendariz said the use of alcohol is

important to examine since it’s a large part of college life.

“Alcohol is connected in a lot of violent crimes, but especially in sexual assault,” Busch-Armendariz said. “It’s exponentially more important to talk about that, not only happening during the assault, but also what happens to students afterwards because we know that people start to self-medicate with alcohol and drugs, which may change their whole trajectory of who they are.”

The role of alcohol and sexual assault also came up during an exchange between Busch-Armendariz and Rep. Myra Crownover (R-Denton). Seventy-two percent of sexual assault instances occur when the victim is too intoxicated to give consent, according to “The Blueprint For Campus Police: Responding to Sexual Assault” report.

“I would be curious to see how many times a pure, sober sexual assault happened,” Crownover (R-Denton) said. “The two are so intertwined — I can’t see talking about one without talking about the other . . . The best defense is being sober.”

Busch-Armendariz said she agreed with Crownover’s statement about the relationship between alcohol and sexual assault. However, connecting alcohol and sexual



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

District 64 State Representative Myra Crownover listens on in a hearing about sexual assault on Tuesday. The representatives met to discuss ways to prevent assaults before they happen.

assault too closely can lead to victim-blaming, said Grace Gilker, director of the Women’s Resource Agency at UT.

“She’s right in the sense that alcohol is the number one date rape drug, but I think the extent to which she connected substances and sexual assault is problematic and borders on victim

blaming,” said Gilker, a Plan II and history sophomore, in an email. “Furthermore, the word choice of ‘pure’ in describing a sexual assault does not sit well with me.”

Crownover’s controversial stance set off debates on social media. Crownover later clarified her comments during the hearing on Twitter.

“Let me be clear, whether or not a sexual assault victim was intoxicated does NOT condone or excuse the actions of the other party,” Crownover wrote.

UT’s alcohol amnesty policy allows students calling for help or experiencing an alcohol-related medical emergency to avoid formal

disciplinary charges from the University under certain conditions. The policy applies in the case of the possession or consumption of alcohol by a minor, the unauthorized possession of use of alcohol on campus and intoxication resulting from alcohol, according to University Health Services.

CITY

Sixth Street bridge repairs delayed for bat removal

By Hannah Daniel
@hannahdaniel

Mexican free-tailed bats have been roosting in crevices beneath the West Sixth Street bridge, causing delays in construction repairs.

The construction is part of a larger restoration project by the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) and the City of Austin. After discovering the bats, the two groups contacted Bat Conservation International (BCI) to devise a plan for how to proceed.

Construction crews are working to prevent the entombment of the bats during the construction, said Dianne Odegard, BCI public outreach manager.

“The worst case scenario would be sealing the bats into the bridge with the mortar, and that sort of thing happens more often than we know,” Odegard said. “We’re really glad that they got in contact with us

to make sure that the bats wouldn’t be harmed.”

The bat exclusion, or removal, process involves the construction crews placing hollow caulk pipes beneath the crevices so the bats can exit safely when they emerge. Once the bats have left their crevices, they cannot re-enter because their claws cannot grip the smooth sides of the pipe.

Joanna Wolaver, executive director of SCC, said the discovery of the bats is only slowing the progress of the project because of the efforts to humanely remove them.

“We’re equally interested in restoring the historic integrity of the bridge as we are in really having healthy habitats for animals on Shoal Creek,” Wolaver said. “It was important for us to balance the historic restoration needs with the humane treatment of the animals living there.”

The goal of the restoration project is to highlight



Mary Pistorius
Daily Texan Staff

Construction workers repair the mortar of the West Sixth Street bridge above Shoal Creek on Tuesday. Those in charge of restoring the bridge are taking extra care as to not disturb the habitat of the bats that live there.

the historical significance of the bridge and transform it into a destination people want to visit. The first stage of the project is repairing the mortar loss, but SCC also hopes to resolve the

graffiti problem and complete further placemaking and landscaping.

The exclusion process added about two weeks to the construction time and an additional \$9,000 in

costs to the city. Mathematics sophomore Emily Ballard said she supports the SCC and the city in their efforts to protect the bats.

“I think it’s so worth it that they’re taking the

extra time and money to do this,” Ballard said. “I used to come here as a kid to see the bats with my parents, and I think the bats are one of the things that make Austin as unique as it is.”

UTPD

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sexual assault.

The report includes summaries of current research and laws surrounding sexual assault, as well as specific ways for police officers to respond to sexual assault appropriately. Strategies such as “Don’t ask doubting or blaming questions” and “Inform victims of their options — criminal, civil, and student conduct process” are included as a strategy to increase the number of reports of sexual assault.

“We know that sexual assault is significantly underreported,” said Michael Heidingsfield, UT System chief of police. “We would expect the reports to rise incrementally, not because there’s a greater incidence of offending, but because hopefully over the long term, those who have been victimized will have a greater sense of trust and confidence in the police.”

Scrutiny of the institutional handling of sexual assault has heightened, especially as the Department of Education told institutions that the improper handling of sexual assault may violate Title



Ellyn Snider | Daily Texan file photo

UTPD Chief David Carter announced the department will be hiring a female detective specializing in sexual assault investigations in April.

IX regulations, which protect students against sex discrimination.

Carter said UTPD started implementing techniques mentioned in the “Blueprint” before it was released, and there would not be many structural changes as a result of the “Blueprint.”

“The level of frequency of reporting [to the police] is kind of small,” Carter said. “What we can do is look at the cases we have done, and my expectation is that the new sexual assault experts will look at those and say ‘Oh, here’s an opportunity. Moving forward, we need to make sure we don’t miss this or that.’”

Police officers are some of the first responders to these incidents, so ensuring they are well trained is vital, according to the report.

“Providing that rapport — helping to validate them during a time that’s extremely difficult — can be very helpful and can help the survivor start on a road to recovery,” “Blueprint” project director Caitlin Sulley said. “It also helps to foster trust in criminal justice response so that other people may come forward and also report, thus improving the safety of the community and letting other survivors know that they will be believed.”

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COLUMN

Environmental justice needs government proactivity

By Benroy Chan

Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@BenroyChan

America has a problem upholding environmental justice — the protection of the environment for all individuals regardless of race, income or other characteristics. Low-income groups bear a disproportionate burden from pollution, and efforts to fix its damage remain absent or come too late. Pollution-induced health problems do not have an easy fix, so instead of simply responding to environmental inequality after it occurs, the government must proactively enforce regulation and ensure accountability to prevent them from happening altogether.

The water crisis of Flint, Michigan, a city with a median household income of \$24,679, demonstrates a classic example of the government’s failure in environmental justice. In April 2014, state officials in Flint failed to properly treat the new city’s water supply with anti-corroding agents. As a result, lead from aging distribution pipes was able to contaminate citizens’ tap water for months.

Last Thursday, the Obama Administration announced it would extend Medicaid coverage to the affected children and pregnant women of Flint. The recipients of this deal now have access to free health services, such as blood monitoring and behavioral health treatment, but this reactive response should

not be seen as a victory.

For one, the extension is coming almost five months after Michigan switched Flint’s water supply back to its original source. Although the expanded services help affected residents, it’s coming far too late.

In addition, while the health services offered will help detect problems early and reduce future harm, the damaging effects of lead poisoning are irreversible. For these reasons, the extended Medicaid coverage should be seen as a cheap bandage over an extreme problem that could have been avoided by properly enforcing regulation.

Even though Flint’s water crisis dominated newspaper headlines, lead exposure continues to be dangerously high in cities across the county. In addition to drinking contaminated water, individuals can be exposed to dangerously high levels of lead from lead-based paints used in old households. This issue remains unsolved in cities such as Cleveland and Atlantic City, which both have low median household income levels similar to Flint. These individuals lack the income to fix the problem themselves, and government aid remains inadequate due to a lack of urgency.

However, health problems caused by environmental justice exist beyond just lead exposure for low-income households. These individuals cannot afford to live in areas with expensive housing. This often means living near cheaper industrial areas that have

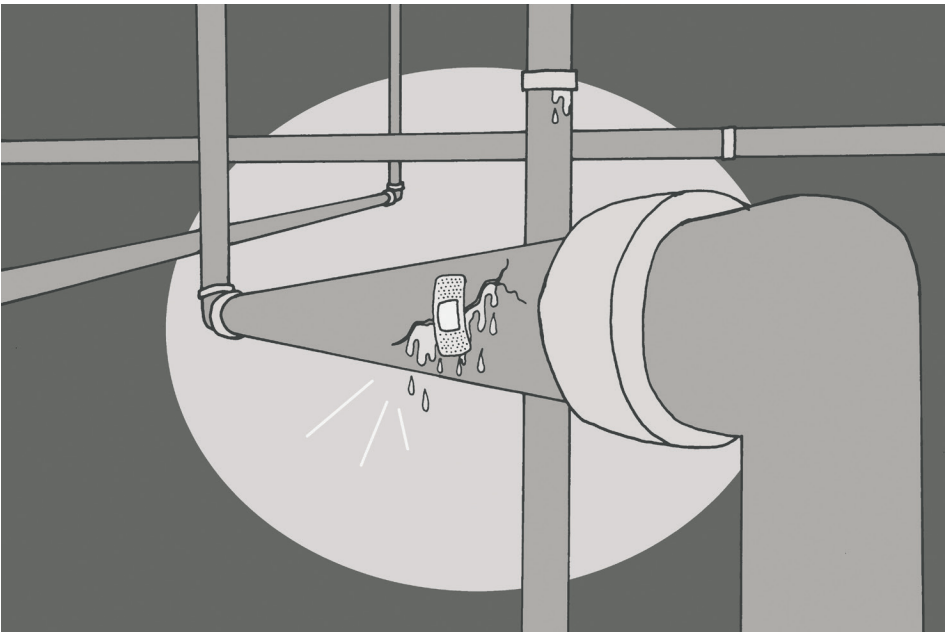


Illustration by Albert Lee | Daily Texan Staff

heavier pollution. Living in these places increases exposure to particulate matter, nitrates, sulfates and more — all have correlations to asthma and cancer.

This class problem is, unfortunately, related to race. Black people are a majority of the population in Flint, Cleveland and Atlantic City, and the national percentage of children in poverty is highest among blacks, according to the National Poverty Center’s data.

Exposure to hazardous elements and chemicals should never be acceptable, and it would be intolerably elitist to insist that safe water and clean air are things that must be purchased. Instead of letting low-income groups be exposed to dangerous substances and trying to solve the problems later, rules and regulation must be enforced to ensure environmental justice for all.

Chan is a journalism freshman from Sugar Land.

COLUMN

Civil rights movements of the past instruct Muslims today

By Mubarrat Choudhury

Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@Mubarratc

Negative rhetoric against particular minorities has been a marker for darker times in history. The rise in attacks have resulted in a dangerous environment for Muslim-Americans, driving the need for the Muslim-Americans to organize in order to combat growing Islamophobia.

Since the tragedy of Sept. 11, a recent Gallup poll indicated that Islamophobia and hate crimes against Muslim-Americans have risen. As the number of Muslim communities rise, making Islam the second most practiced religion in Texas, our state alone has seen quite a number of recent attacks against several Muslim communities. From an Iraqi refugee being murdered in Dallas, to a vandalized mosque in Pflugerville, to a man pointing a gun at two Muslim women right here in Austin, the red state of Texas has increased its marginalization of Muslim-Americans. Adam Hamze, journalist at the Houston Chronicle, writes about the growing hostility against Muslim Texans.

“With anti-Muslim political rhetoric growing in the aftermath of terrorist attacks overseas and in San Bernardino, some Muslims say they are living in fear,” Hamze said. “Across Texas, worshipers at mosques say they have been threatened and targeted by increasing hatred that has them guarding their every movement.”

Last week, three young Muslim men were shot execution-style at Indiana Tech. This prompted the social media movement #OurThreeBrothers and several campus vigils across the country, including at The



The various campus vigils held across the nation’s colleges need to transform into a more organized movement in order to fight against anti-Muslim sentiment.

University of Texas at Austin. These vigils were organized in order to call attention to the violence and to come together in solidarity — not only against the murders, but also the growing hatred toward Muslim-Americans in the United States.

The rise in Islamophobia and hate crimes against Muslims parallels the various civil rights movements of the 1960s. Rising rhetoric antithetical to expanding the rights of minorities prompted a number of left-leaning movements, a majority of which spread across college campuses. The treatment of Muslims today parallels the treatment of African-Americans then.

College students ought to engage in actions similar to those of their predecessors and stand in solidarity on the right side of history. Jessica Mendoza, staff writer at the Christian Science Monitor, writes that the rise of Islamophobia will prompt the next student protest movement.

“While it’s too early to characterize it as a national protest movement, Muslim students from coast to coast are joining



Juan Figueroa | Daily Texan Staff

UT alumna Paige Ingram mourns the loss of three black and Muslim men who were shot in late February in Indiana. The vigil was held by the Palestine Solidarity Committee on March 2.

in solidarity with minority activists protesting racism on campus,” Mendoza said. “When it comes to the issue of Islamophobia, so far, the students seem to prefer education and outreach to full-scale demonstrations and calls for the ouster of professors or administration officials.”

The various campus vigils held across the nation’s college campuses need to transform into a more organized movement in order to fight against anti-Muslim sentiment. Unlike the civil rights movement in the 1960s, these

new age movements are meant to change negative cultural perceptions of minorities instead of unequal laws.

Recent movements like “Black Lives Matter” were created in order to address and defeat the systemic bias against black Americans. The same type of movement must be adopted by Muslim-Americans and used in order to increase the awareness of hate crimes and quash Islamophobia.

Choudhury is an economics freshman from Dallas.

COLUMN

Headgear can champion concussion prevention in soccer

By Emily Vernon

Daily Texan Columnist
@_emilyvernon_

Brandi Chastain, most famous for her winning penalty kick and celebration in the 1999 Women’s World Cup, has announced she will donate her brain to post-mortem concussion research. Chastain is the second woman from the 1999 World Cup winning team to do so, following in the footsteps of Cindy Parlow Cone. The two women hope these positive steps will help determine the effects of concussions in women’s soccer, with the goal of preventing debilitating brain injuries.

In the wake of the National Football League’s concussion crisis, scrutiny upon chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a neurodegenerative disorder caused by repeated brain injuries, has arisen within female and male soccer players. The life-altering condition has been found in professional

soccer playing men, but not in women, although this is likely due to a small sample size of only seven brains.

This research has been a catalyst in the implementation of new regulations for youth soccer: Heading has recently been outlawed for children under the age of 10 and prohibited during practice for children ages 11–13.

While these progressive regulations are worthy of commendation, these new laws do not go far enough. All players should be required to wear protective headgear during practices and games, regardless of age. Soccer already requires protective gear in shinguards, so headgear is a natural extension. For a sport that holds the number one ranking in female concussions, this is a frustrating lurch toward real change.

While headgear may not be a cure-all, it can at least reduce the severity of head injury. It protects against heading and other head trauma, including collision with other

heads, the ground and goalposts.

Dr. Summer Ott, neuropsychologist with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and the IRONMAN Sports Medicine Institute, said concussions that result from headers are not the only major source of head trauma.

“A lot of people have this misconception that concussions happen with headers ... that’s not really been proven in the literature,” Ott said. She noted other forms of contact that often result in concussions are getting hit in the head with a ball and hitting one’s head on the ground.

As research into CTE within soccer continues, education will be paramount in player safety and future policy decisions. Preston Moore, program coordinator for the UT Institute of Sports Leadership and Innovation, said education is vital in the concussion discussion.

“Giving people the resources to be able to identify potential concussion symptoms



Heading has recently been outlawed for children under the age of 10 and prohibited during practice for children ages 11-13.

is crucial,” Moore said. “After they are equipped with this toolbox, it is then a process of empowering athletes, coaches and medical staff to recognize concussions and [to] be willing to put the long term health of a player ahead of a potential short term on the field success.”

Sports are great; brain injuries are not. When something as precious and vital as a brain is at stake, a no-nonsense policy needs to be adopted.

Vernon is a PACE freshman from Houston.

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Hield wins second-straight Big 12 Player of the Year award

By Sarah Worsham
@SarahWorsham

There might have been the Big 12, but Oklahoma center guard Hield, 2007 Big 12 Player of the Year, won the award, the Big 12 announced Monday.

Hield, who was the most for the season, won the Big 12 Player of the Year award, the Big 12 announced Monday. Hield, who was the most for the season, won the Big 12 Player of the Year award, the Big 12 announced Monday.

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JAMES HAMIL / THE OKLAHOMAN

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SOFTBALL

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BASEBALL

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FOOTBALL

football.com 000 22 00000000

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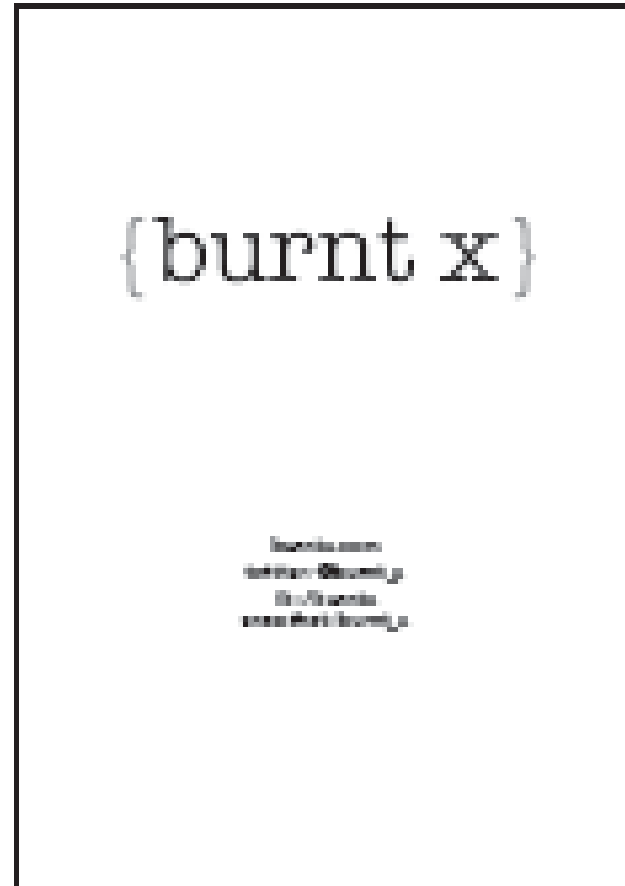
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KVRX 91.7

3/13 LOCAL ACTS SHOWCASE @HOLEINTHEWALL

3/16 KVRX & WHYUPRESENT @PEARLST.COOP

3/18 KVRXPLOSION @FAREWELLBOOKS


3/20 TAGLAND: KVRX HANGOVER BRUNCH @SPIDERHOUSE



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SOFTBALL | UTSA 2 - 3 NO. 25 TEXAS

Leahy leads Longhorns in walk-off win

By Claire Cruz
@claireecruz5

There's something about trailing at Red & Charline McCombs Field that gets No. 25 Texas going.

The Longhorns (15-3) have a knack for coming from behind at home, as they showed again Tuesday evening. They trailed UTSA heading to the bottom of the sixth before some timely hits earned them a 3-2 win and their fifth walk-off victory of the season.

"The atmosphere from being at our home field helps," sophomore pinch hitter Randel Leahy said. "We're defending our turf, and we're not going to let a team beat us on our home field."

The Longhorns got on the board in the first behind a lead-off single from senior center fielder Lindsey Stephens. A stolen base and a single got Stephens to third, and she crossed the plate due to an error by UTSA's senior catcher Tess Soefje.

Through the next four innings, however, Texas didn't record a single hit as junior pitcher Chelsea Parker sent the Longhorns down in order every frame.

"We have to make quicker adjustments," head coach Connie Clark said. "We're missing on that a little bit and we have to be better. We'll come back to



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan file photo

In extra innings, sophomore catcher Randel Leahy came into the game as a pinch hitter and gave the Longhorns a 3-2 win in walkoff fashion.

work and continue to battle through those things."

UTSA took the lead in the top of the sixth with help from some Texas miscues. Sophomore pitcher Paige von Sprecken loaded the bases behind three walks before being replaced by junior lefty Tiarra Davis. Davis struck out the first batter she faced, but then UTSA's junior first baseman Angelica Niño came up to bat.

Niño ripped a grounder to shortstop that freshman first baseman Christina Bardwell couldn't handle, and the error scored two UTSA runs. Bardwell replaced junior Devon Tunning at short after Tunning got hurt in a collision in the second. She received stitches on her left hand and is expected to return soon.

Texas tied the game up at 2-2 in the sixth. Stephens ripped a lead-off triple to center field, and junior left fielder Stephanie Wong drove her in with a single to right.

Leahy entered the game as a pinch hitter in the eighth with the bases loaded and one out. With a 1-1 count against her, she sent a walk-off single to right field to win the game.

"Honestly, I was just having fun up there," Leahy said. "My coaches weren't putting pressure on me; they just said, 'You can do this,' and that was the best part because I was able to enjoy it and I wasn't stressed."

Sophomore pitcher Kris-

SOFTBALL page 5

BASEBALL | SAM HOUSTON STATE 3 - 12 TEXAS

Cooper continues to impress in six inning shutout

By Daniel Clay
@dclay567

The Longhorns began the 2016 season with the motto "Do simple better."

Thirteen games into the season and riding a four-game losing streak, the Longhorns finally did simple better.

Power hitting, two out RBIs and a vintage performance by right-handed pitcher Morgan Cooper propelled the Longhorns to a 12-3 win over Sam Houston State.

"They are learning that performances are about themselves," head coach Augie Garrido said. "You have to control yourself and be willing to be yourself rather than try to be somebody else. You think you have to do something because you're a Longhorn. You can't. It just puts pressure on you."

Cooper was able to throw strikes with knee-buckling curves and hard fastballs to keep the Bearkat hitters off balance all night.

The 2014 All-American freshman blew a career-high eight strikeouts past the Bearkat bats over six innings of shutout ball and was able to keep his velocity in the mid-90's through all six frames in his second start since missing all of last season with Tommy John surgery.

You have to control yourself and be willing to be yourself rather than try to be somebody else. You think you have to do something because you're a Longhorn. You can't.

—Augie Garrido, Coach

"The work that's being put in is showing," Cooper said. "It's a good sign to see that going late into the innings."

The Longhorns gave Cooper support by putting the leadoff man on base in each of the first five innings and using a smattering of stolen bases, two-out hitting, and a Kody Clemens homer into the Sam Houston State bullpen to march to a four-run lead after four innings.

The home run was the first of Clemens' career and a welcome respite in what has been a rough campaign at the plate for the freshman third baseman.

"I was fired up about that because I know how good he is," junior infielder Kacy Clemens said. "It's been kind of wearing on him a little bit. Finally I said, if you hit it



Sophomore pitcher Morgan Cooper pitched six innings of shutout baseball to give the Longhorns a 12-3 win over Sam Houston State.

Gabriel Lopez
Daily Texan Staff

over the field there's no field out there."

Collaboration from the Clemens brothers broke the game open in the fifth.

With the bases loaded, Kacy Clemens scorched a bases-clearing double off the right field wall to put Texas up 8-0. Kody Clemens then singled up the middle to add another tally and all but dec-

BASEBALL page 5

LONGHORNS IN THE NBA

Turner receives Eastern Conference Rookie of Month award



By Steve Helwick
@naqwerty3

At the beginning of January, Indiana Pacers rookie center Myles Turner was a backup center returning

from a thumb injury. His role, potential and minute distribution were all mysterious at that point.

Two months later, Turner was awarded with Kia Rookie of the Month honors for the Eastern Conference.

The Rookie of the Month award, which is given to players from both conferences, was presented to the same two big men for the first three months of the season. While Karl-Anthony Towns, a number one overall pick from the Minnesota

Timberwolves, continues to sweep Western Conference honors, Turner ended the Rookie of the Month streak for New York Knicks Latvian sensation Kristaps Porzingis.

In February, shortly after Turner moved into a starting role with the Pacers, the 19-year-old from Texas averaged 13.4 points, 6.6 rebounds, and 1.8 blocks per game. Last month, he posted his first two career double-doubles, shot 51 percent from the floor and converted his first career 3-point shot.

Turner's top scoring performance of February was 24 points to propel the Pacers over Porzingis' Knicks. He also recorded a career-high 13 rebounds in a win over the Lakers and a career-high six blocks in a win over the Thunder.

"Preciate [sic] all the love! [H]onored and humbled by this award! [Shoutout] to my squad though, for putting me in great position to achieve this feat!" Turner tweeted after earning the Rookie of the Month honors.

Turner, a hopeful to make the All-Rookie team at the close of the season, ranks seventh in points, eighth in rebounds, and third in blocks per game among all first-year players. With these averages, Turner looks to become the first Pacer to be selected to the All-Rookie team since teammate Paul George in 2011. He also is aiming to be the first Longhorn alumnu to earn the honor since Tristan Thompson in 2012.

The Pacers sit at seventh

TURNER page 5

SIDELINE

NBA

	BROOKLYN
	TORONTO
	SAN ANTONIO
	MINNESOTA

NHL

	DALLAS
	MONTREAL

TODAY IN HISTORY

1995

The MLB awards a franchise to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

TOP TWEET

Javan Felix
@JavanFelix3

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will not accomplish much in life and live in regret"

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Texas men's golf tied for third heading into final round

No. 6 Texas men's golf rebounded from a sluggish start Monday in the Southern Highlands Collegiate Masters in Las Vegas.

The Longhorns used a 4 under par outing in the second round on Tuesday to put them in a tie for third with No. 2 Florida at 5-over overall, nine shots off the lead.

Junior Beau Hossler and sophomore Scottie Scheffler each shot a 3-under 69 in the second round to put them into a tie for ninth at 1-under overall.

Sophomore Doug Ghim shot another 2-over 74 to put him at 4-over overall and tied for 33rd. Junior Gavin Hall shot an even par 72 to stay at 5-over for the tournament and tied for 40th. Redshirt sophomore Taylor Funk posted an 8-over 80, putting him at 11-over overall and tied for 62nd.

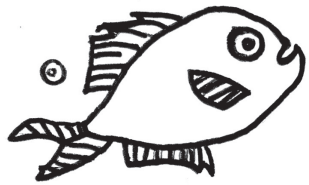
No. 8 USC surged into first place after shooting 8-under par, the low team total for the day, putting them at 4-under for the tournament with a seven-shot lead over No. 14 Arizona State.

USC's Sean Crocker fired a 4-under 68 to give him a share of the lead at 6-under overall with Arizona State's Jon Rahm, who shot another 3-under 69. They hold a one-shot lead over Florida's Sam Horsfield.

Final round play begins Wednesday at 10 a.m.

—Trenton Daeschner

Daily Texan Comics



REASON TO PARTY

National
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almost...)



Audrey McNay

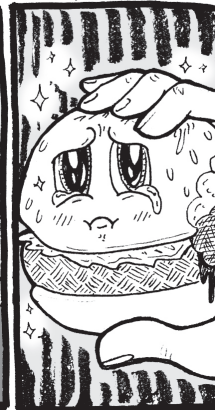
hungry.

Kiersten Stegman



Pickles & Self-Hatred: he's trying his best

by Mel W.



STRIP naked by CHESTER OMENUKOR



whosyourfavoritepossum.tumblr.com



BUNNYGAMER

tin rodriguez



Always Hoodie Season



Today's solution will appear here next issue

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The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0203

ACROSS	38 Avail	68 Grosses
1 Informal presentation, e.g.	39 Concur	
6 Many fourth-down plays	41 Adjust, as a watch	DOWN
11 Take to the hills?	42 Baseball position . . . or a description of each group of circled letters?	1 Pepper and others: Ab
14 Scaly wall-scaler		2 Maximum
15 Hi hi	45 Barn neighbor	3 Gross
16 QB Brady	46 Itty-bitty	4 Barely obt. with "out"
17 Seize the reins	47 In eager anticipation	5 Focal point
19 Bauxite or galena	52 F.B.I. action	6 "The Hung Games" n
20 Fall guy?	53 Superstate in "1984"	7 Very, very
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30 Tirade	64 Go around in circles	11 Hurricane,
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34 Sound from a terrier	66 "What . . . the odds?!"	13 "That is to . . ."
37 Genre of Isaac Asimov's "Foundation"	67 Some Arizona flora	18 Future see
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BLANK F BY TOM MOON

PUZZLE BY TOM MCCOY

32 Group of established works	47 Dutch Caribbean island	56 Forward-looking person?
33 Put a match to	48 Surgical beam	57 Persia, nowadays
34 God whose name is a homophone of a zodiac sign	49 Feudal lord	58 Requests, with "for"
35 Count (on)	50 Question sometimes accompanied by an elbow jab	60 File name ending in Word
36 Made dinner for	51 Christine of "Chicago Hope"	61 Long time
40 Cotton	54 Shock, in a way	62 Epitome of simplicity
43 ___ Whitney	55 The U.N.'s Kofi ___ Annan	
44 Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde"		
45 Down		

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CAMPUS

Students fundraise for orphans in China

By Anna McCreary
@annammccreary

Groups of students line up along the street with signs over their heads that read, “BABY ZHONG NEEDS YOUR HELP.” From their homes in Austin, Texas, China Care members work to promote equal quality of life for historically disadvantaged children in China through fundraising and community involvement. Founded 10 years ago, Texas China Care is one of many student-led organizations under the national charity One Sky. One Sky’s orphanages in China nurture young girls and children with disabilities who have been put up for adoption because of China’s former one-child policy. China Care president Catherine Vu, an international relations and global studies senior, said One Sky orphanages emphasize one-on-one attention between orphans and their caretakers, something Chinese orphanages often lack. Their method has served as an example for orphanages around the country. “[The] idea was that love was really the key to help these children progress and develop,” Vu said.

Texas China Care fundraises for One Sky by hosting bake sales, student showcases and panhandling. “We hold signs with orphans’ pictures on them and just scream at cars to help donate and raise awareness,” Vu said. “We’re reaching out to the Austin community, even if for a brief five seconds when that person is sitting at the red light.” Despite occasional rejection, advertising junior Cassandra Perez said it’s the small contributions that make the greatest difference. “There’s always these people that are just walking by, and they pull out a dollar bill, and they’re like, ‘This is all I have,’” Perez said. All the money goes directly to educational, nurturing and rehabilitation programs for orphans in China. This year, Vu said Texas China Care is sponsoring two orphans. “Throughout the year, One Sky sends us two or three updates on how the children are progressing,” Vu said. “If they’re going through rehabilitation, they’ll tell us, ‘He was able to hold the nanny’s hand and walk with them a little more than last week.’” The programs focus on integrating Chinese orphans back into society, since not



UT students Catherine Vu, left, Cassandra Perez and Raelyn Beck are the executive members of China Care, a student-led organization dedicated to funding educational, nurture and rehabilitation programs for orphans in China.

Emmanuel Brisenor
Daily Texan Staff

every child gets adopted. Perez said the program is also important for children who have been adopted and are currently living in the United States. International relations junior Raelyn Beck was adopted from China at six months old. As a child, Beck said she was involved with an organization called Families with Children from China (FCC), a group Texas China Care works with. FCC was established by a

collection of parents to help their adopted children retain their Chinese culture and identities. Beck said children learn about and celebrate traditions like Chinese New Year and the Chinese Moon Festival while building strong mentor relationships with the volunteers. “I really like giving back to the community that I used to be a part of — and still am a part of, I guess — and seeing how much the adopted

community has grown,” Beck said. The organization also enables the children to develop a peer community, Perez said. “Usually [the children] are just the one Chinese kid in their family, with white brothers and sisters, and it’s kind of a weird disconnect for them, like something is not right,” Perez said. “What FCC does is it introduces them to people that have their same story and culture and who look like them.”

Perez said she hopes the organization will bring awareness to the consequences of China’s one-child policy and inspire people in Austin to provide support. “The founders of One Sky literally adopted a kid and cared so much that they flew [to China] and started to run their own orphanage,” Perez said. “In the future, maybe someone will hear about [Texas China Care] and want to help adopt in China.”

CAMPUS



Angle Huang | Daily Texan Staff

Juhie Vyas, neuroscience senior and one of the co-directors of Raas Rodeo, spent almost a year planning the annual dance competition.

Raas Rodeo combats poverty in India through dance show

By Cameron Osmond
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While walking through a market in Gujarat, India, Juhie Vyas was approached by an emaciated young boy pleading for food and money. A freshman in college at the time, Vyas realized she could use her passion for dance to combat India’s poverty problem. Now a neuroscience senior, Vyas is one of the co-directors of Raas Rodeo, an intercollegiate dance competition put on every year to showcase Indian dance teams from across the country. All of the proceeds earned by the competition benefit Baal Dan charity. “All the hard work Baal Dan does is to provide basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing and education to impoverished children in India,” Vyas said. “Growing up the way most of us do, I think seeing their impact is really inspiring and puts so much into perspective for me. Knowing that all of the proceeds from our show go directly to benefiting these kids is very fulfilling to everyone involved with Raas Rodeo.” During her freshman year of college, Vyas decided to join Texas Raas, an Indian dance team on

campus. Vyas said she has been dancing since she was three, when she would attempt to imitate her mother’s movements. “[Indian folk dancing] in particular is very dear to my heart because it originated in the state of India where my family is from: Gujarat,” Vyas said. “From a young age, my mother and the rest of my family cultivated this passion for performance in me.” Vyas eventually had to leave Texas Raas due to a growing course load. Ultimately, she said she had to choose between quitting Raas entirely or staying in the program as a part of the Raas Rodeo executive board. “Since I previously danced in competitions similar to Raas Rodeo, I decided it would be fun to join in the process,” Vyas said. This year’s competition, which took place in February, involved almost a year of organizing the event and fundraising. Pooja Patel, a fellow executive board member, said that preparation was key in making the competition happen. “I think the toughest part is working through all the problems that can come up in a competition where we are in charge of housing eight collegiate teams for the weekend,”

said Patel, an international relations and global studies sophomore. “Everything from transportation to hospitality to the show itself was planned to a tee by the board, and I don’t think we could’ve done it without each other.” In the end, the competition raised thousands of dollars for Baal Dan. Vyas said every time she flies back to India, she sees the necessity of the charity’s work. “Even when I go back to India now I’m very sheltered because my family back there is considered well off,” Vyas said. “But even that is a culture shock for us — visiting the markets and places where children will come up to you and beg.” Along with the charity that Raas Rodeo supports, Vyas said the nature of the competition kept her coming back every year, something she said she will miss once she leaves UT. “At times it is a little hard, because watching the teams perform on stage gives me a lot of nostalgia,” Vyas said. “But it’s a whole different experience being on the other side and organizing it and making it happen. It taught me how to be an effective leader and deal with the other executive members’ leadership styles. For that and much more, I’m grateful.”

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘KNIGHT OF CUPS’

Malick’s ‘Knight of Cups’ favors experimentalism over storytelling

By Sebastian Sada
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There are few filmmakers as intrepid and introspective as award-winning director Terrence Malick. His latest film, “Knight of Cups,” serves as a visual experience that transcends space and time. In “Knight of Cups,” Rick (Christian Bale), a screenwriter, wanders through Los Angeles in an attempt to find himself. His struggles to cope with the loss of his brother, Barry (Wes Bentley), his divorce from his ex-wife, Nancy (Cate Blanchett), and his inability to attain love stand at the forefront of the film, showcased in a non-linear narrative that weaves in and out of the past. Rick’s quest for meaning is carried forward by six women in whom he finds temporary solace, driven by erotic experiences and complex conversations that challenge and change him in unimaginable ways. Rick’s struggle to savor his own success is conveyed in the film’s lavish party sequences, in which his series of inauthentic gestures conflict with notions of enjoyment. Bale effectively captures his character’s flaws, reserving authenticity for moments of isolation, recollection and self-exploration. His attempt to grapple with abstract concepts unfurls through symbolic images and sequences, permitting viewers to gauge his journey like purveyors of an unsolved puzzle. The process of assembling each piece

is as thought-provoking as it is moving, challenging and changing viewers’ perceptions in the same way that the protagonist’s perceptions are changed. The protagonist’s journey is further strengthened by the film’s various technical feats, notably its cinematography, editing and score. Three-time Oscar recipient and cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki captures Rick’s journey with emphasis on reality, utilizing unorthodox compositions to construct his perceptions while drawing upon close-ups to capitalize on emotion. Rick’s constant shifts between the past and present are enhanced by pervasive jump cuts and cutaways, which effectively signify his mental and emotional instability. These commendable technical elements are amplified by the infusion of instrumental pieces, which build upon Malick’s physical displays of emotion to immerse viewers in the grief and aimlessness that define Rick. Gorgeous as “Knight of Cups” may be, its technical feats often scramble the narrative. Viewers piecing Rick’s journey together will struggle to find a cohesive storyline, and it often feels confused or incomplete. Terrence Malick’s prioritization of visual beauty forces the film to fall short of excellence, disappointing viewers who crave a truly cinematic experience. The abstract nature of the protagonist’s quest shouldn’t

KNIGHT OF CUPS

Running Time: 118 minutes
Rating: R
Score: ★★ ★

cause the film to become an art exhibit; nevertheless, the intricate, emotionally complex masterpiece succumbs to visual showmanship. Malick’s attempt to tell Rick’s story is likewise weighed down by its cyclical nature, making the film to predictable and, at some point, apparently endlessness. Even the actors, who deliver emotionally rich performances, are helpless to redeem their characters from audiences’ desire to cut to the credits. The substance required to sustain viewership, much like the protagonist for most of the film, fails to reach its necessary destination, leaving viewers to observe similar struggles manifested eight times. Flawed as its narrative may be, “Knight of Cups” proves itself to be a worthwhile experience, engulfing viewers in two hours of gorgeous experimentalism. The film’s open interpretation separates it from clichéd Hollywood dramas, proving that abstract art can persist successfully in the realm of cinema. Terrence Malick’s eighth feature as director, though ultimately substance-deficient, is worth appreciating for its craft and sheer ingenuity, further asserting his position as one of the film industry’s most creative directors.

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me just grabbing the knife by the blade and making it happen for myself and for us.” In organizing the festival, Hill joined with queer hip-hop innovator Tim’m West, founder of the rap group The Deep Dickollective, as well as DJ Ang Garcia and Alex Hinton, director of the 2006 documentary “Pick Up the Mic.” Allgo, a statewide queer people of color organization that supports activists and artists, also partnered with Pink Elephant to put on the festival. Garcia said the event offers an opportunity for members of the LGBTQ community to listen to music that presents an alternative to the masculinity and misogyny often emphasized in

mainstream hip-hop. “I think for me, personally, when I hear mainstream hip-hop, it doesn’t speak to me and to my story,” Garcia said. “And with queer hip-hop, of course the dialogue and the message is going to resonate more with me and my personal life.” In addition to presenting the work of queer hip-hop musicians, Pink Elephant will also host visual artists and local vendors within the LGBTQ community. Ayana Flewellen, a graduate anthropology student and jewelry designer, curated vendors for the festival in hopes of capturing all aspects of the hip-hop culture. “It’s just a really nice space

where the LGBTQ community takes care of itself, providing exposure for artists that are within this community, whether it be performers or local vendors here,” Flewellen said. “It’s a way for us to get exposure when, in larger society, that isn’t something that people afford us. I like to think of it as community taking care of community.” Hill said the festival aims to capitalize on a heightened awareness of the LGBTQ community. “I’m mostly excited to show the world that we bring it, because I think that we have the attention of the world right now,” Hill said. “It’s like, ‘Okay, we see you guys, but what can you do?’ And we’re about to show you what we can do.”